

NEW MEXICO BOWL
UTAH STATE VS NORTH TEXAS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- Utah State walked into the New Mexico Bowl with one of its best records in school history but uncertainty. Its head coach, Matt Wells, left to take the Texas Tech job. Interim coach Frank Maile had to prepare the Aggies with an army of graduate assistants and an announcement a new coach was coming next month.

North Texas, meanwhile, was coming into Albuquerque with experienced coach Seth Littrell and highly touted quarterback Mason Fine.

The Aggies pushed those distractions aside Saturday.

Jordan Love threw for 359 yards and four touchdowns and Jalen Greene had six catches for 151 yards and a score to help Utah State rout North Texas 52-13.

Maile directed the Aggies (11-2) even after Utah State announced former head coach Gary Andersen would return. However, Andersen opted not to attend the bowl game and let Maile finish what he started.

Love completed 21 of 43 passes with one interception. D.J. William had two interceptions, helping Utah State ground high-flying North Texas (9-4).

Aaren Vaughns caught two passes for 109 yards and two scores for the Aggies, Gerold Bright ran for 103 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries, and Darwin Thompson added 93 yards on 21 carries.

Maile said he did his best to get the offense ready. The rest was up the players, he said.

"The guys have lot of efforts to doing their jobs," Maile said. The defense is set up for everybody to make plays."

Love said receivers were able to get open, find space and get yards after the catch. "We've been doing that all season," he said.

Fine was injured in the first quarter, and the Mean Green ended up using four quarterbacks. Jalen Guyton had four catches for 103 yards a score.

Littrell said Utah State was the best team the Mean Green faced all season. "We didn't have enough in us today to make more plays to have success," Littrell said.

When Fine came up limping following a nine-yard run in the first quarter, the whole complexion of game changed. "I don't ever want to put him in harm's way and he is so tough," Littrell said. "He wants to do everything he can for his teammates. But as the head coach, sometimes enough is enough."

After the game, North Texas officials announced that Fine had a severe left strained hamstring. This is the second time in three years that Fine most of or all of the Mean Green's bowl game after a shoulder injury kept him out of the 2016 Heart of Dallas Bowl.

Littrell said Fine left with a "pretty bad" hamstring injury but couldn't give more details.

Cornerback Kemon Hall said it was painful to see his teammates injured but players are trained to always be on standby. "You've always got to stay ready," he said. "You hate to see guys do bad or people get hurt."

THE TAKEAWAY

UTAH STATE: Maile was tasked with preparing the Aggies with a staff of graduate assistants in coordinator spots. Players had to handle the distractions and constant questions over the future leadership of the Aggies and how it would affect their chances in the bowl game.

NORTH TEXAS: Coach Seth Littrell announced this week he would stay with the Mean Green to build on what he started when he took over a team that was 1-11 in 2015. Since then, he has a 23-17 but has yet to win a bowl game in three straight appearances.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
USU	14	24	7	7	52
UNT	7	0	6	0	13

Scoring Summary -----

	USU	UNT
FIRST QUARTER		
USU TD 14:20		
Aaren Vaughns 72 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:40	7	0
TD 2:52		
DeAndre Torrey 2 Yd Run (Cole Hedlund Kick)		
10 plays, 78 yards, 4:44	7	7
USU TD 1:59		
Gerold Bright 26 Yd Run (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
5 plays, 41 yards, 0:53	14	7
SECOND QUARTER		
USU TD 12:08		
Jordan Love 9 Yd Run (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
10 plays, 78 yards, 2:52	21	7
USU TD 9:43		
Aaren Vaughns 37 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
2 plays, 52 yards, 0:28	28	7
USU TD 8:55		
Jalen Greene 67 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
3 plays, 67 yards, 0:38	35	7
USU FG 0:00		
Dominik Eberle 42 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 23 yards, 3:04	38	7
THIRD QUARTER		
TD 14:50		
Jalen Guyton 75 Yd pass from Kason Martin (Cole Hedlund PAT blocked)		
1 play, 75 yards, 0:10	38	13
USU TD 5:01		
Gerold Bright 3 Yd Run (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
4 plays, 42 yards, 0:50	45	13
FOURTH QUARTER		
USU TD 8:30		
Ron'quavion Tarver 13 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick)		
14 plays, 90 yards, 7:10	52	13

Team Stats	USU	UNT
First Downs	25	19
Total Yards	556	313
Total Plays	83	75
Avg Gain Per Play	6.7	4.2
Net Yards Rushing	197	120
Rushes	40	41
Yards Per Rush	4.9	2.9
Net Yards Passing	359	193
Comp-Att	21-43	17-34
Yards Per Pass	8.3	5.7
Times Sacked	1	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-13
Interceptions	1	4
Punts	6	7
Punt Average	44.5	38.4
Penalties	7	2
Penalty Yards	76	20
Fumbles	0	4
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	26:33	33:27

Individual Stats

RUSHING

USU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Gerold Bright	16	103	6.4	26	2
5 Darwin Thompson	21	93	4.4	22	0
10 Jordan Love	2	3	1.5	9	1
16 Jordan Nathan	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

UNT

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
4 Anthony Wyche	7	53	7.6	17	0
21 Nic Smith	6	48	8.0	37	0
13 DeAndre Torrey	14	35	2.5	7	1
5 Jason Bean	4	14	3.5	8	0
7 Evan Johnson	2	9	4.5	6	0
6 Mason Fine	1	9	9.0	9	0
19 Quinn Shanbour	4	-3	-0.8	6	0
17 Kason Martin	2	-21	-10.5	0	0

PASSING

USU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
10 Jordan Love	21	43	359	8.3	4	1	145.0
UNT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
17 Kason Martin	7	12	110	9.2	1	0	162.8
6 Mason Fine	8	12	59	4.9	0	0	108.0
19 Quinn Shanbour	2	8	24	3.0	0	3	-24.8
5 Jason Bean	0	2	0	0.0	0	1	-100.0

RECEIVING

USU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
21 Jalen Greene	6	151	25.2	67	1
11 Aaren Vaughns	2	109	54.5	72	2
1 Ron'quavion Tarver	4	33	8.3	13	1
8 Gerold Bright	3	20	6.7	13	0
5 Darwin Thompson	1	15	15.0	15	0
16 Jordan Nathan	2	12	6.0	10	0
87 Dax Raymond	2	10	5.0	5	0
81 Savon Scarver	1	9	9.0	9	0
UNT	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
9 Jalen Guyton	4	103	25.8	75	1
81 Cudjoe Young	4	31	7.8	14	0
11 Quinetin Jackson	1	14	14.0	14	0
18 Keegan Brewer	1	12	12.0	12	0
87 Kelvin Smith	2	11	5.5	9	0
1 Jaelon Darden	2	8	4.0	6	0
32 Michael Lawrence	1	7	7.0	7	0
13 DeAndre Torrey	1	4	4.0	4	0
82 Deion Hair-Griffin	1	3	3.0	3	0